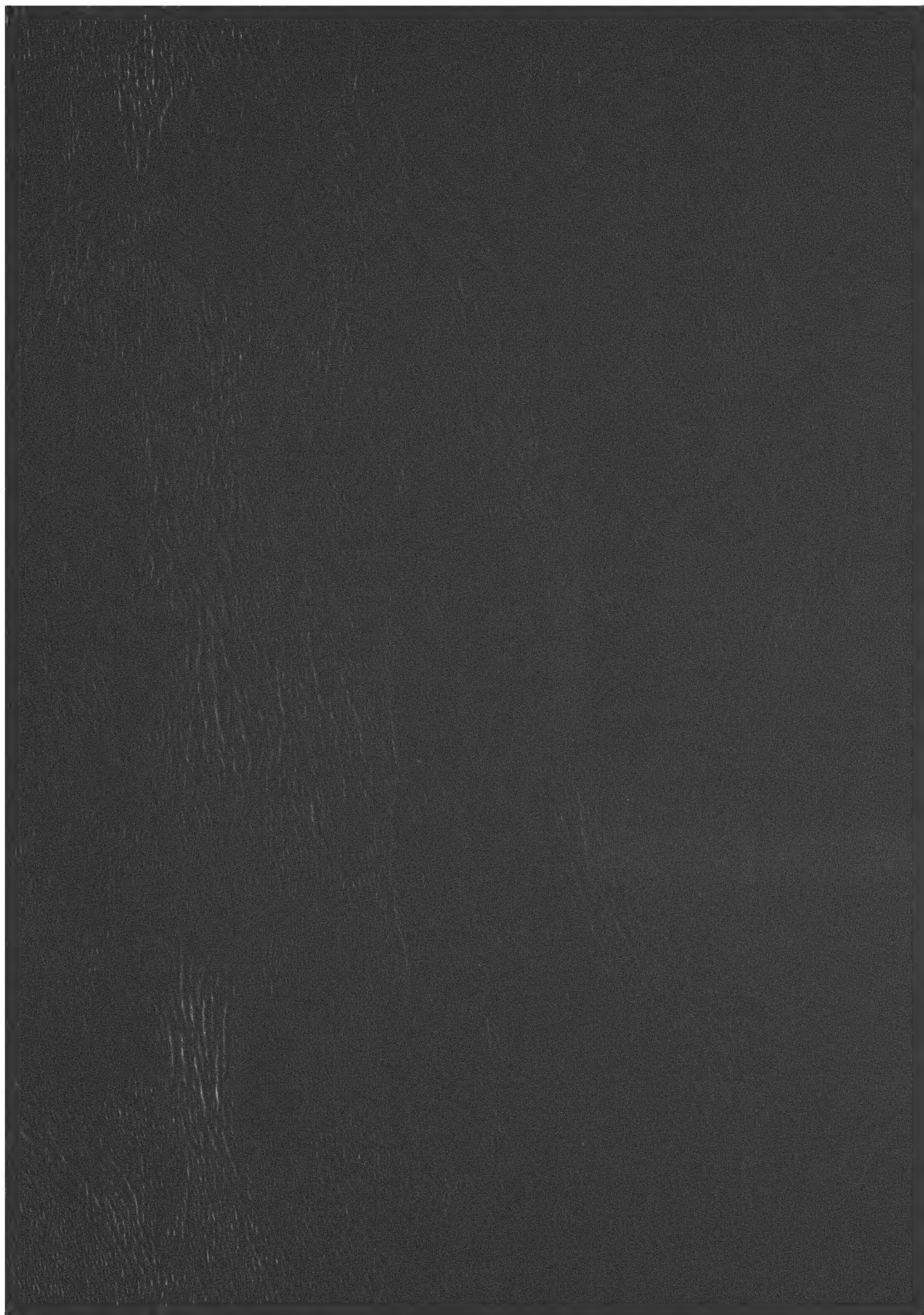




THE REVEREND W. H. TAYLOR

FIRST RECTOR OF ST. JAMES THE ASSINIBOINE



REPORTS AND LETTERS
OF
THE REVEREND W. H. TAYLOR
FIRST RECTOR OF THE
PARISH OF ST. JAMES CHURCH - THE ASSINIBOINE
WRITTEN BETWEEN NOVEMBER 23, 1852
AND AUGUST 4, 1859

THE ORIGINAL REPORTS AND LETTERS, FROM WHICH THIS
TRANSCRIPT WAS MADE, ARE LOCATED IN THE ARCHIVES
OF THE UNITED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL,
15 TUFTON STREET, LONDON, ENGLAND.

FORWARD

On June 21, 1967 representatives of the City of St. James and the parishioners of the St. James Anglican Church attended the re-dedication service of their original parish church. As a Centennial project the City and Parish restored this lovely old building which has stood on the banks of the Assiniboine River since 1853. This restoration was the realization of a dream so dear to the hearts of many of the families still in the parish. Some had attended the old church themselves. Others had been brought up on stories of the days when their parents had worshipped there. It was a proud day. Interest in our history was rekindled.

The following year my husband and I had the opportunity to visit the "United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel". This society was responsible for the Rev. W. H. Taylor, our first rector, coming to the Red River Colony in September 1850. The home of the Society stands among many other church buildings on a narrow street behind Westminster Abbey in London, England. Having arrived at Number 15 Tufton Street, we were led up the winding old staircase to the Archivists Office. This room and the adjoining library housed shelves of letters, records and journals sent from missions all over the world for centuries. It was awe inspiring to think that over a hundred years ago someone in England cared enough about a little spot west of Canada to send a man and his wife out to service a mission. It was even more exciting to realize that some of his letters and journals were filed carefully away waiting for us if we cared enough to ask. The Archivist photographed copies of the material of interest to our church and mailed them to us when we returned to Canada. The following book is a transcript of the reports and letters that Rev. W. H. Taylor sent to his home office during the period 1852 to 1859.

Grateful acknowledgement is extended to those who made this book possible.

The Archivist, United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. London, England, for locating and making copies of the journals.

The Rev. J. A. Palmer for acquainting us with the existence of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Mrs. Linda McIntosh for the ink sketch, copied from a photograph, of the Rev. Taylor.

Miss Mary Beech for typing copies of the letters and journals.

Miss Marion Neild for assisting Miss Beech in deciphering Mr. Taylor's handwriting.

Mr. Lawrence Schmidt for arranging for the journals to be sent to St. James, preserving the copies of Mr. Taylor's handwriting, and having the book printed for distribution.

Mrs. Anita Schmidt.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM H. TAYLOR

The Rev. William H. Taylor left his home in Clint, Worcestershire, England on May 29, 1846 to travel to Newfoundland. On Trinity Sunday, June 1846, he was ordained as Deacon by the Bishop of Newfoundland, and remained in Newfoundland for four years.

In September 1850, Mr. Taylor arrived in the Diocese of Rupert's Land and, a month later, was appointed by Bishop Anderson to organize a church in the district of Assiniboia, as the general area around St. James was then called. Mr. Taylor subsequently named the parish St. James.

A rectory was built for Mr. Taylor in 1851, followed by the building of the church in 1853. The rectory has long since disappeared but the church still stands and is used for services by the parish during the summer months.

The reports contained in this book give some insight into the services held by Mr. Taylor in St. James Church. Assisted by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Mr. Taylor remained in St. James until 1867, when he returned to live out his retirement in England. He died in Clifton, Bristol on January 19, 1873.

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St. James, Assiniboia
Rupertsland, Nov. 23rd, 1852.

Rev. & Dear Sir:

I have thought that some account of this Diocese, of the work which is being carried on in the various parts of it, and particularly of the late visitation of our excellent Bishop will be acceptable to you, either for your own publication and papers or for the Publisher of the Col. Ch. Chronicle:- the incidents of the Bishop's journey eastward, I have permission to give, as I have heard them related by his Lordship - and no doubt they will be interesting to many who feel any interest in the difficulties and triumph of true religion.

In my last letter to you, which has crossed yours to this country, I have mentioned the flood which deluged the Colony in May and June last. Of that sad visitation the Bishop had prepared some account before he set out on his journey. It has been sent home and will soon appear under the title of "Notes of the Flood". From that you may obtain a full and interesting account of what was then endured and suffered by the Colonists - so that I need not dwell further on that subject. Of course everything was in great disturbance and every arrangement broken up.

The ordination on Trinity Sunday was holden at the Rapids in St. Andrew's Church. It was the Bishop's intention to have held it in his own Church, but the submerging of the Settlement put that quite out of the question. The Middle Church was also under water - so that the Rapids' Ch. was the only one in which it could take place. There was only one Candidate, Mr. T. Cochran, son of Rev. W. Cochran of the Ch. Miss. Soc'y., stationed

at the Indian Settlement. The examination was conducted at this place during the Bishop's stay with us. Mr. Cochran was formerly at the University of Durham but he had spent the two years previous to his ordination in this Colony. During that period, he had been employed in Tuition in a very satisfactory and successful manner. On Mr. Pridham's return home in June, the Bishop preferred Mr. Cochran to the Mastership of St. John's Collegiate School - and in order that his Lordship might have assistance in the Ministry at the Upper School it was desirable that the Tutor should be in Orders. The flood however, put everything into disorder. The Bishop and his family were obliged to vacate the house - and the School removed to the Indian Village. This seemed the only place it could be carried on and it was finally arranged by the Bishop till his Lordship's return in the Autumn. Mr. Cochran Jnr. officiated at St. Andrew's during the summer and continues to minister there owing to the absence of the Rev. R. James. At the ordination there were 5 Clergymen present, besides the newly made Deacon - Rev. Cochran - Cowley & Hunter - of the Ch. Miss. Soc. - Mr. Chapman of the Middle Ch. & Chaplain to the Hon. Company & myself. It was my part to present the Candidate for the imposition of hands. John Black, Esq., as Registrar of the Diocese administered the customary oath etc. This gentleman, a most amiable and worthy man, has since returned home. The sermon was preached by the Bishop in his usual eloquent and impressive style - from Ps. CXXVI 5 & 6. The holy Sacrament was afterwards administered to a large number. In the afternoon the newly ordained Deacon read prayers and Mr. Hunter of Cumberland - who had served the Ch. during his stay in the colony, preached. The same week Mr. Hunter returned to his Mission in the North. By the 20th of June the water had fallen

off so as to allow of service being held in the Middle and Upper Churches. The Bishop reopened his own Ch. on that day, and took an affectionate leave of the congregation before setting out on his journey of visitation. On the 27th he officiated at the Rapids, where his family for a time had taken up their abode. On Monday the 28th he started for Moose in James Bay. With the prayers of the church he entered on this long and perilous journey to the East Main. A canoe had been engaged and brought in from an outpost - and the officers of the Hon. Co. who are accustomed to such outfits - kindly made all necessary arrangements. The men were hired with reference to their fitness for such a voyage, some regard being had to their moral character - and it seems all turned out as well as could be hoped for. As far as Lac Seul his Lordship had a companion in the person of a Mr. H. McKenzie, the son of an old officer in the Service and who had been with Dr. Rae on his adventurous journey northward. They were detained two days on Lake Winnipeg by wind and storms and then staying but a short time at Fort Alexander, pushed on to White Dog or Islington - an Indian Station. This field of missionary work had been opened with much promise last year - and a Catechist, Mr. P. Kennedy, with a labourer or two had been sent to civilize and instruct the Indians. The Rev. R. James of the Ch. Miss. Soc. visited it and from his hopeful account of the place and the favorable disposition of the Indians - the Bishop exerted himself wonderfully in order to take advantage of the seemingly providential opening. A good Christian friend at home had most generously and piously supplied aid towards erecting a permanent mission, The Bishop was therefore glad to visit the spot in person, and see for himself the amount of good done among the poor Indians, & what hope there was of future durable success. Here he spent a short time with the Catechist - a well disposed,

amiable man - and saw the Indians connected with the place. He had much conversation with them and baptized some from among them - both old and young. It did not do to tarry too long - and his Lordship parted with them - hoping to see them again on his return. They soon reached Lac Seul, where is a trading post and where he left Mr. H. MacKenzie. They pursued their journey, going with the current, to Martin's Falls - the Bishop thought the scenery very romantic, in many places grand. The falls and rapids he described as very pretty - & the shooting of such as were not dangerous gave a pleasing charm and made an agreeable change in the otherwise monotonous course. Now and then they came upon a party of Indians - peaceable and quiet - and now and then touched at a trading post where every attention was shown him by the gentleman in charge. I have heard him speak of one who had not seen a Minister since his coming into the country, a considerable time, and such instances are by no means rare. How painful and lamentable in our opinion such a situation? In due time he reached Albany where a small boat was in waiting to transport him down to Moose. This part of the journey the Bishop had been informed was often long and dangerous. He and his party were much favored and made it in very quick time having gone from Albany to Moose Fort in a day and a half. The weather was fine and pleasant - and altogether they had a noble run. The Catechist who had been sent out to that post last year and who has laboured with great acceptance both among the European and Indian population had just left Albany for Moose. He had been there on duty and had hoped to meet the Bishop there. On his approach to Moose the Bishop was struck with the neat appearance of the Fort and the houses in the Bay. The style is different from the Colony, and partakes a good deal of a foreign character. Here he found Mr. Horder and

was gladly and respectfully received by the Hon. Co.'s officer in charge. So far the journey had been prosperous. He had reached the place in 5 weeks and 2 days. The Indians of that part do not seem to roam about as they do in other parts of this vast country. Their tents were all centiguous, having the appearance at a distance of a little village. It is but right to say that some years before Mr. Horder's going thither, the place had been occupied by the Wesleyans but had been given up by them and lately some French Priests have been vigilant in making converts to their belief. There is a Chapel or Church in which the people have been accustomed to worship and in this building the Bishop held his services during his stay at Moose. There is no other Church. The Bishop held one confirmation, two ordinations and had once the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The number confirmed including Europeans and Indians was 130. On the 14th of Aug. the Hon. Co.'s ship arrived off Moose in which was the Rev. E. N. Watkins of the Ch. Miss. Soc. & Mrs. Watkins. They were not able to land until the 18th. On Sunday the 22nd Mr. Horder was admitted to the holy order of Deacon - the Bishop preaching from Ex. XXV111 36 "Holiness to the Lord". On Tuesday following he was ordained Priest when Rev. M. Watkins preached from Col. 1 28 "Whom we preach" etc. On Sunday the Holy Sacrament was administered - in the morning to about 30 Europeans - and in the afternoon to about the same number of Indians etc. This was the first time the Indians there had been admitted to the Lord's Supper. Surely then this is a token for good - the dawn among them of a brighter and a better day! Mr. & Mrs. Watkins were to start soon after for their destined place of labor - Fort George, or Big River, in Arrowsmith's Map, on East Main. This is a more desolate post than Moose and the church has to be planted there. As

far as I know there has been no teacher or minister in that quarter so that Mr. Watkins does not enter into other men's labors or fall into another man's line of things made ready to his hands. But the Bishop feels every hope from the piety, judgment and zeal of Mr. Watkins. Mr. Horder is left in charge of Moose and being in full orders his ministry in that part is likely to be the more efficient and successful. To have brought him into the Colony for ordination would have been a big and expensive thing. He could not have gotten back till next July or August and on the whole it would have been better for him to have gone to England for ordination than to have come into Red River. The Bishop felt this and was glad of the arrival of Mr. Watkins in full orders. He thus saw his way more clearly to ordain Mr. Horder both Deacon and Priest on the spot. A more full account of our Bishop's labours in that quarter I cannot at present supply but he left it with a heart cheered by the devotion and zeal of the missionaries and the apparently open and truthful, affectionate and sincere disposition of the Indians. Of course there is only a beginning among them - much has to be pulled down, much to be built up again of a different character and order - even from the foundation - that must be laid well and solidly before a good superstructure can be raised. And that the work is wise and cautious - in prudent and zealous hands may be hoped to go on even unto perfection. The same open boat conveyed his Lordship back to Albany and as he left the Fort the guns fired a salute and another from the ship in the Bay in honor of his departure. He was pleased with the Indians at Albany - but their position at that place is not too gratifying and hopeful as at Moose. This is owing, no doubt to the want of a minister and the stated means of religious instruction. Mr. Horder can visit this post only a few times in the year. From this place

they had now to come against stream - the canoe was again in requisition and they set off fresh and invigorated for their return. They had to paddle and track against current, and the falls and rapids some of which they ran going down, were not so easily passed on their return. It took a much longer time for their inward journey than their outward. We had begun to feel something like alarm when the 2nd of October had come and the Bishop was not in the Colony. The cold was getting great and the weather very unpleasant and disagreeable for such a journey. But on the 15th he arrived quite well and all the party in good health without any serious accident or illness. They had rested on Sunday - managing to get to an Indian Camp, if possible, or to one of the Co. 's posts. They were in one or two severe storms and in one place the ice had formed so thick as to crack beneath the paddle and the mittens of the men as they pulled along were often stiff with the frost. Some of the residents in the colonies knowing how soon this part was icebound began to feel a little fear at his Lordship's long detention. They even thought of manning a boat to go out with help - but all was well. God has thus mercifully heard the prayers of his church which were constantly offered up for the preservation of our Bishop and his party.

Now let me go back a little. In the Spring it was announced to the Bishop by the Col. Ch. & Sch. Soc. that they were anxious to render him some help and had arranged for a Mr. Corbelt in their employ to proceed from Montreal to Red River. This was a long and expensive journey. We had made it 2 years before as we came through Canada on our journey hither from Newfoundland. If communication had been quick, we might have supplied Mr. Corbelt with many directions for his guidance on so difficult a journey.

However, in Sept. they arrived, both Mr. & Mrs. Corbelt in good health having come through the States to St. Paul in the Territory of Minnesota on the banks of the Mississippi. Good Mr. Gear the Chaplain at Fort Snelling, showed them much kindness as he did to us - so also did the clergymen at St. Paul's during a stay of more than a month waiting for the Red River caravan. They travelled over the prairies in a wagon, as we had done before tho in a more westerly direction. The Hon. Co. had no brigade as they had in 1850 so Mr. & Mrs. Corbelt came under the escort of the American Fur Brigade as far as Pembina on the line, and from thence to the Colony with a guide they there engaged to conduct them hither. The Bishop had not returned on their arrival and for the time they stayed with his estimable and excellent sister in his Lordship's house. They have since then spent a week with us as his direct line of labor could not at once be marked out. I think he is an estimable person and calculated to be very useful in this country. They now occupy a house in the Rupert District, where Mr. Corbelt is diligently preparing for the ensuing ordination. I have thus indirectly told you that he is a candidate for orders. Another candidate is Mr. Robt. McDonald - a Divinity student and scholar of St. John's Collegiate School. The ordination will if God so permit - take place on Sunday, Dec. 19th. There are no candidates for the order of Priest.

The Festival of Epiphany is fixed upon for the consecration of the Middle Church. It is to be dedicated to public worship under the designation and title of the Church of St. Paul. It has been built some time and this autumn put into a fit state for consecration. This will be the second Ch. consecrated in the Colony and the third in the Diocese. It is the day of small things with us yet, is it not? But there is more to overcome than most persons

think of - and we must be content to go on quietly and slowly if we may but go surely. God grant to us His help and protection and give His Church stability in this unstable land! O that our prayers may be united for this object and **this** be abundantly and effectually answered! The enemy of truth and righteousness - of peace and concord is as active in this as in other lands.

It may please you to know further that if all be well the Bishop intends confirming throughout the Colony next year. May many be found to come forward and declare themselves on our, or rather on the Lord's side, on that occasion. Whether he will confirm before or after his visitation in the North, I do not know. His Lordship intends, God willing, to visit in that district to take Cumberland, the station of Mr. Hunter, for confirmation and to go thence to Mr. Hunt's at Lac La Rouge for the same purpose. It will depend on the season and other things whether he penetrate further or not. From all the stations northward the Bishop continues to get favorable accounts. They speak encouragingly of the progress of the gospel among the natives. Mr. Budd, in a late letter, speaks of several who have departed hence in the faith and hope of the gospel. Rev. H. Budd is the first and at present only native missionary laboring among his fellow countrymen. He is a very active and zealous man and doing much in the way of translations. He has spoken of the Nipawin as a populous and pleasant place and as a most promising field of missionary labour. He thinks the Indians are softening and their opposition to Christianity probably falling off.. May he be successful in planting the church in that dark and benighted spot! The station at Fairford, Manitoba, in charge of the Rev. M. Corby is at present suffering from a partial overflow of the lake near to which it is situated. He has been advised to go to higher ground and most of

the Christian Indians have been compelled to quit their houses for a time. We have not heard for the last few weeks of the state of the lake. At Fort Pelly between 200 and 300 miles west there has been a Catechist now for some time. In the spring of this year Rev. Mr. Hillyer of the Ch. Miss. Soc. proceeded thither. He is moving about among the poor Indians of that quarter, hoping in our time to be instrumental in bringing some in from amongst them. We have not heard from that post for some time. For the poor Indians at Gimli nothing has as yet been done. The Bishop seems most anxious for that spot and would be greatly relieved if he could once see the ground occupied and the work prospering under the guidance of a zealous, prudent, self-denying clergyman. The Macedonian cry has long ago been uttered and it could only be responded to by a promise.

The state of the schools I have not mentioned. The collegiate school is again brought under its old rules. The sad ravages of the flood had been repaired as well as they could during the Bp. 's absence and on his return, both the master and scholars were again reinstated in the old quarters. — The school is as flourishing as ever and perhaps more effective than at any time of its history. The female seminary, under the wise and judicious management of Mrs. Mills and her daughters is most vigorous and prosperous. This institution is perhaps the greatest blessing in the way of real benefit to the Colony it has ever possessed. Thanks to our good Bishop who at his own risk undertook the work. The parochial schools are all doing their own work noiselessly and perseveringly. A new one has just been opened for the benefit of the parishioners near the Fort. For the Rapids district the Ch. Miss. Soc. has this year sent out a schoolmaster of a different stamp probably the colony

has hitherto had - a student from Highdring (?). It is hoped that a sort of normal or model school may be thus established and from this the Colony in due time, may receive a class of schoolmasters of a most energetic and effective character. I ought not to close without saying something more immediately of my own parish. When the Church will be begun, I cannot say. The delay arises from causes we cannot control. We hope to lay the foundation in spring and get on with it during summer in a brisk way. If a recurrence of last spring's calamity should happen, it will be too much for any thing or person to survive and any outlay in a church would be rather unwise. But we do not allow our thoughts to dwell on such a subject and certainly it is well we do not. The like may not occur in the present generation. For years things will not be as they were and we must be content to gain our former position by degrees. It is a great thing that only the lower part of this district was submerged. Much has been done throughout the settlement but there is still a great deal to be done. We want help - mechanics, artisans, labourers. I often think that the surest and best way of improving the colony is to favor immigration, particularly of honest, industrious and sober labourers. This class of people introduced from England would do more than anything else for this colony. And there is room - why not occupy it? Advantages - why not embrace these? Why I cannot tell - nevertheless these are facts that our service at the school continues well attended - I may say better, yet we want room - and we feel badly the need of a church. The Sunday School not quite so good as formerly. Many of the young men and women have discontinued - for such I hope to provide some other source of instruction. I have had services regularly every other Sunday afternoon at the Fort and during the summer. Mr. Chapman has relieved me twice.

Now that the Bishop has returned he takes it the alternate Sunday afternoons. I hope I may say that some improvement is visible in the men - I mean the local parishioners. The responses are better. The singing is far better and a very orderly and devout behaviour generally observed. I trust these improvements may be abiding. It will be a good thing if the Hon. Co. could of their liberality provide for this service a special Chaplain. I must now bring my letter to a close and beg you to excuse the great length to which I have run it. I remain Rev. and dear Sir,

Your obed. servant,

W. Taylor

St. James Assiniboia
Rupertsland 1834
July 27th, 1855.

Rev. & Dear Sir:

The great preparation amongst the boat people, men and freighters and the passengers going off by them to meet the ship at York, reminds me that I must also be in readiness with my budget both to my more immediate friends and relatives and to the Society by which I am employed. We should be in danger of stagnating altogether were it not for these annual stirring occasions. There is, however, some improvement in the way of getting and transmitting information to and from the country since our arrival in it - besides the one old way by the yearly ship from the Bay. The country south of us seems to be opening up fast and tho it is expensive to send out and get in by that route, yet it is a great gain upon the former state of things. As yet it appears very uncertain, and there is an acknowledged risk owing to the great extent of unoccupied land and the rough state of things in a new country, whether the Am. Govt. continue their present arrangements but if Pembina be garrisoned, as it is reported it is to be ere a great while, then our postal facilities will be greater and more certain than at present. For all weighty packages and for business transactions with England we are glad to avail ourselves of the ship as usual. At this present time I have nothing particular to report. In the country there is little or no progress and in my own immediate sphere things are not much different. There is however, some movement - we do go on tho our progress be slow - and the motion we trust, is in the right direction - that is, an improvement, morally - socially - religiously. When I came here, we had no church - now we have one consecrated - nicely finished - nay some say,

architecturally beautiful. We had but few communicants - now we have nearly double. We had a poor school - badly supplied with books - and a system of teaching followed which has long since been exploded in almost every place - and now has been here superseded by a greatly improved state of things - there was no Lending Library, - no influence over the young for good - now we have an efficient Library suited for young and old - and we trust an influence gradually extending itself over us and amongst us for good. In this way then there has been a movement and tho' things around us are much the same - and the country is as it was 100 years ago - yet in some quarters a progress is discernible. No doubt in other districts the same thing may be seen and throughout the Diocese at large as the Bishop will no doubt write to you by and by, much may be seen and acknowledged as the result of patient toil, persevering labor, faith and prayer. Let me say a word about our church. This, you know, was the one great object to be obtained after that we found there was a congregation awaiting it - but the people were too far off - too scattered to be reached by a clergyman at St. John's, the only place in this part of the country where formerly there was a minister or a church. Our school was sadly too small, inconvenient and in every way unsuitable for Sunday Services - nevertheless for a long time, thro' cold and heat, - thro' rain and frost, and wind and storm we continued to attend - and we trust that our labor has not been in vain. Yes, for four years have we met in that low dark crowded room - there have we united in the common offering of prayer and praise - there has the word of God been read and preached - baptism administered to the young - and other benefits imparted from time to time, but the full ordinances of the Ch. we could not receive reverently and seemly,

and for the Lord's Supper and confirmation we had to attend at St. John's several miles below. We had as you also know, planned and prepared for a Ch. almost from the first - but we had before anything else to seek for a - and then to get up a Parsonage and this we did working constantly with our own hands - and often at great disadvantage being at the time resident with the Bishop - then the disastrous flood followed, - putting us back a whole year - so that in reality from the commencement of the church to the finishing of it, - i. e. from the time the corner stone was laid till the consecration, was not quite two years. A period, one remarked to me not long ago, - really short - taking into consideration the state of things, the want of workmen, and the continual and unforeseen and unthought of hindrances which daily almost hourly happened. Now thank God! so much of our work is accomplished - so much is really attained, and we can go on as if going forth afresh to the work we have pledged ourselves - the seeking for the souls of those committed to us - that they may be saved thro' Christ for ever. Now that the material temple is reared and dedicated - I hope to have more time to give to the spiritual building - and to pray that daily some stones may be gathered out of this moral waste, this wild quarry of nature - and heathen darkness, and be, by the divine architect, incorporated into the mystical body of Xt. our Sav. - the blessed company of all the faithful - and be made a spiritual body offering up spiritual sacrifice to God by Christ for our Lord. -- This indeed is my daily prayer - and for this I trust I labor and live.

I should like to send by this favor a pencilling of the little church and will try to do so, if I can get one taken. I have no skill in this department and must depend on others doing this little act for me. I think I may have told

you its dimensions before but a short description now may not be too much out of place. The length is, exclusive of the Tower, 70 by 26. The Tower is 12 by 12 rising to the height of 40 ft. surmounted by pinnacles. A spire had been originally thought of - but the prevailing high winds and the want of men to do the work was a sufficient reason to relinquish the plan, at least, for a time. The style is Gothic or perpendicular which has been kept in view throughout, as far as unprofessional people could do it. The interior is acknowledged to be very chaste and good - how far everything may be correct we must leave to better judges, if ever any should come to the country to decide. The roof is open to the ridge and will we trust, this Fall or next Spring, be fully stained. The quantity got out sufficed only for the seats - rails the beams etc. The seats are open - and of a nice pattern affording plenty of room for our present population. There is a neat font in wood near the western door, the gift of the young people - a most appropriate contribution. The Com'n. was furnished by kind friends at home - the well-wishers in our native parish in Worcestershire. The plate for the Com'n. is very chaste and good and bears a neat inscription from the parishioners offered to the first Minister of St. James and Assiniboia. The service books were kindly granted by the Soc. for Promoting Xtian Knowledge which has also been the greatest contributor to the building. It is worthy of remark that so far not one accident has occurred to any workman employed on it. This was mentioned by the Bishop at the consecration as a matter for great thankfulness. It was solemnly opened and consecrated on the 29th of May - a most appropriate day, and one as the Bishop remarked, bringing with it many serious reflections. His own consecration day - six years before - the day on which I left home for

the Diocese of Newfoundland 12 years ago - and hallowed by its associations with the Mother Church in the land of our birth. As many of the Clergy as were near attended, and each took a part in the sacred services of the day. The Bishop preached from the 2nd ver. of the 29th Ps. after wh. while the offertory was read - the two junior ministers took up a collection from the congregation. It amounted with some little addition afterwards, to nearly £7. I ought to tell you that the desk and pulpit were the contribution of a pious lady at Clifton thro' Mrs. Mills, the lady in charge of the establishment at St. Cross. We have, then thro' the assistance of many, both here and at home, one of the most becoming churches in the land, - and our one prayer and hope is that many may be born again and be made heirs of everlasting salvation thro' our Lord Jes. Christ and be trained for glory and blessedness hereafter. It will, we know, avail us little to have a neat and proper and commodious church unless spiritual stones are added and a spiritual service offered up acceptable to God by Jes. Christ. We have had two full services every Sunday since its opening - and they have been well, and we trust, profitably attended. Besides the Sunday services we have had occasional worship, and that too has been nicely observed. Our communicants are multiplying and those added as far as we can observe are going on in an upright Christian course of behaviour. We had the Sact. on Trinity Sunday the first Sunday after consecration, when 37 approached the Lord's table. Of course they were not all belonging to our parish some came from other places who could not reach St. John's on Whitsunday. If God will, we have our second communion on Sunday the 5th Aug. It will thus afford all those among us who are going in the boats to Hudson's Bay, - and those leaving us,

it may be, forever, opportunity to join once again in celebrating the mystery of Redeeming love as set forth in a crucified Saviour. Being the first SunY in the month, thousands of our fellow Christians in all parts of the known world will be alike occupied, thus bringing together the of the world in the communion of Saints. This thought has a most cheering effect upon those, cut off, as we are from intercourse with our brethren & fellow Christians in every part of the earth. I think I have said enough of our religious state and I hope that you will be able to see that we have improved - and that this movement has at least been in the right direction. Our moral state, as a whole, is not quite what it ought to be, and what we have a reason to expect. We see constantly the words of truth exemplified before our eyes "one sinner destroyeth much good" - But we do not despair - we wait for better fruits and hope that in the due time they will abundantly appear. I don't mean that there is an utter lack of moral virtues for one of my Church wardens told me the other day that during his residence in the parish he had not beheld one act of dishonesty among our own people. But we want to see more uprightness - candor - truthfulness - sincerity - goodness - purity - that there is so much is perhaps astonishing considering that we are but one remove from the Indians - and the evil influence that is everywhere brought to bear upon the people - neutralizing or making powerless brighter examples of a benigner influence. I am persuaded we must make allowance for persons so circumstanced - and not forget the darkness and heathenism which border so closely on the weak and faint gleam of light and truth that is shed through the land:- That we are making some advances in the intellectual life is evident from the improved state of the young attending the Schools. — The next

generation we hope may be better, as they certainly will be wiser, than their fathers and mothers. The children in the School for the past six months have been chiefly young - very young - the elder ones grown out of childhood - or called away to the more active duties of the farm or the house. We trust to be able to commence a new school-room near the church this fall. We have some of the timber on the spot - and a little money collected thro' the parish to carry it over. One of our parishioners offered £10 - to begin with - and another kind friend offered £10 more if we collected the same amount within a specified time. This we hope to do. It is a true saying - one want supplied creates another. We feel this with regard to our school. We are now obliged to divide the children - part at the school - part we have at the parsonage. When we get a school near the Ch. this will be obviated. I so hope we shall be able soon to accomplish this most desirable end. I do not yet know what may be done with the old house - it will very likely be sold to help forward the new one - or if we can do without that, it may be kept for a week day lecture, for which it would do well being nearly at the extremity of the parish. We cannot feel too thankful for the books friends have supplied us with. The Christian Knowledge Society and the Tract Soc. have been very good - friends in need - for without their seasonable grants of books, and tracts we should not, humanly speaking, have accomplished what we have. It is most cheering to find the interested desire for reading and to observe the increase of knowledge too among young and old - that their natural shyness to converse and great disinclination to open their minds to one is gradually clearing away - and that their notions of things and ideas of God and religion are getting more defined and correct. That most of our people can now understand more of the Bible

and Prayer Book and look for, and find, joy and comfort, in religion is a great encouragement to us. One poor young person who was in trouble said the other day, in her simplicity, that it was a comfort she should have the prayers of the church. When asked what she meant, she said "the prayer for all who have erred and are deceived" - this I think shows that religion is beginning to be a practical thing. From such things we hope that a spirit and habit of attention has been awakened, which will not soon slumber or die away. The offices of the Ch. are more esteemed and sought after - prayers in sickness and trouble - and thanksgivings for mercies and favors are more observed and enter more into daily life. Oh that the Spirit of Christ may be more and more important to us - and the Spirit of grace and supplication be poured out upon us! Then and then only shall we really live - and then will our light shine in the darkness that surrounds us - and we may hope lead many a poor Indian now obdurate and dark and set against the light, into the glorious liberty and light of the gospel. They are, I believe, to be brought over by the example of Christians chiefly. Oh that ours may be the humble means of winning many to Christ! - so that when they come among us, or we go among them "they may fall down and worship God - and confess that He is with us of a truth"! I set down a sort of abstract of my work the past year - not that I keep a strict reckoning of all that I do, for that appears to me too much of the Dr. and Cr. system. - Sermons preached in my own parish and other places, 72 - Baptisms in St. James's, 12 - Lectures and catechetical instruction, constantly. An adult evening school 2 evenings in the week during winter. Our whole number of baptized members is upward of 200. — The no. of communicants 22. - Candidates under instruction 2. — This, I think, embraces my labor and our

position with regard to numbers etc. I bless God who has given me health and strength to serve Him. May He enable me to abound in labor for Him more and more! I am desirous to say by the Bishop, who left on the 4th of June for East-Main, that on his return, which we hope will be in Sept. he will write to you. — May God preserve him in his long journey and of his mercy bring him back to us in peace. With every prayer, believe me, Rev. Dear Sir

truly and sincerely yours

W. H. Taylor

Rev. E. Hawkins

St. James's Rupert's Land
Aug. 7, 1855

Rev. & Dear Sir -

I add a line to my long letter written to you a few days ago, to say that we are now in a state of great fear & excitement owing to an attack the Sioux Indians have lately made on the Plain Hunters, as they are called - & the robbery & loss of life which attended it. Every Season - that is, when the men of the Settlement are off in the Boats & others to the Plains to hunt, more or less, there is a panic about the Sioux - and a year or two ago, it was so great that the people above assembled all of them in some one house for the night taking it change about - & others went to the borders of the Lake hoping there to be more secure. Such fear does the report, true or not, of the approaching enemy, produce in a poor weak & undefended Colony. There had been a rumour early in the Spring that the Sioux were not far off - & that they had attacked trading parties on the River Assiniboine & others coming from the Winter-hunt - killing some & carrying off their horses & cattle. This was reported by the Company's traders from Beaver Creek. The Hunters, however, went out as usual, taking with them their wives & children to make the Pemican & melt the tallow. Some of our own people were of the party, & have for years gone on the Summer's trip for meat & fuel. I saw them ere they went off - & offered them as usual books & tracts for their own reading on Sundays - & for the use of any in their party who could read. It appears from what I gathered from W. H. that they had gotten fairly to the hunting ground had killed many Buffalo & were likely to have a most successful season - the Buffalo being more plentiful than had been known for years. They were aware that Sioux were on their track as

they found one poor man who slept without the camp one night, dead in his lodge the next morning - shot thro' the head. H. tells me that they were 2 or 3 days from Pembina at Goose on Goose-grass River - in the Sioux country - i.e.

- about 60 miles or a little more. They were surprised early one morning by a party of Sioux, who had succeeded in a few moments, in detaching their horses.

— Some of the bravest went off to try to recover them - & they were soon surrounded by the enemy & others attacked the camp. — Parties were fighting in two or three places & all was confusion. Some of them succeeded in regaining their horses, but were finally overcome & escaped only with their lives. H. tells me that he & 4 more were for some time opposed by 10 Sioux - one of the little party was shot dead at his side, & that it was with the greatest difficulty they released themselves bringing off their poor dead companions.

He lost 3 horses & some oxen & one cart - & as many as 40 or 50 families were making their way to the Settlement as they best could - having lost all horses, oxen, carts etc. — He reports that altogether 101 horses - & 40 or 50 oxen were taken from the parts - that 7 had been killed - & that they had killed several Sioux but how many he could not tell. It appears that the Winnebagoes have joined the Sioux as one of that nation was found among the slain. The men appear very much distressed at this attack upon them & victory over them for having lost their horses they were obliged to abandon the hunt & get back as well as they could. H. says the Sioux will not be backward to follow up the victory - & that they are certainly meditating a descent on the Settlement. He and others think that sooner or later they will attempt it — It is he says, but 24 hours hard ride from their quarters - & that they may surprise the Colony at any time. This calamity to the Hunters and their

reports of it have caused among the half-breeds, great alarm. — I see no reason to doubt H.'s word - he is a strictly correct man - a parishioner of my own, & a communicant. — Whatever loss of meat & fat there may have been occasioned by this disaster, we have much reason to bless God for a most bountiful harvest now just ready for the sickle. May He preserve it to us! & give us hearts to bless & praise Him for it. It is doubtless an unwise step in the Company to withdraw Col. Caldwell & the Staff of Pensioners just at this time - leaving the Colony utterly defenceless. — They certainly were a check on the inroads of these worse than barbarians - worse than Kaffirs - & now that we lie so much exposed it seems natural to dwell on such a position. I am no alarmist - but we share to a degree the common fear & danger. But, God liveth - & the most high reigneth - and can govern & order the unruly wills & effectiveness of sinful men. May He overrule all for good & be both now & evermore our defence. Doubtless it is to His protecting care & ever watchful providence that this Colony has subsisted & does at this day continue, a monument of His care & tender regard. And so long as we seek Him, he will be found of us. Oh may we ever seek, ever love & adore Him! I was struck by the remarks of H. When telling me of the great number of Buffalo in the Plains, he said "but Sir, our men killed them wastefully - wantonly. — The day on which the Sioux came upon us, I counted 30 carcasses in a space about as big as this - a very little spot he referred to, with only the tongues & a little fat taken - I said to our men - now my good fellows, I think God is angry with us and has given us into the hands of our enemy. We kill His creatures wastefully - here is 30 Buffalo - killed for nothing but their tongues & a bit of fat. It's waste of God's creatures - & He's angry with. " — This I told him

was very good reasoning - & I hoped they would all in future think more of that matter. Some seem to take this as an intimation that that uncertain mode of sustenance should be given up - & that Colonists should betake themselves to the rearing of crops & stock. No doubt it would be to the benefit & comfort of all if it were so. The cruelty of people is shocking as we see & hear of it here. — Such scenes as men witness on the Plains must make them very indifferent to human suffering & life. The Sioux & Saukteaux get the scalp of those they kill - but I was told on Saturday that Col. Caldwell had bought from a french halfbreed the hand of a Sioux killed in this last affair at Goose River. He was carrying it with him in a preserved state - the skin quite cutere - the nails etc. trimmed off with Eagle's feathers - & making an ornament for the top interior of his tent. That any calling himself a Christian should feel any sort of satisfaction in such a thing is shocking. Oh may the time soon come when the tribes of the earth shall be at peace - all knowing & serving the Prince of peace & dwelling as brethren together! I seem to have spun this out to a great length - but I thot I might mention the circumstances. Believe me, Rev. & dear Sir

truly & faithfully yours

W. Taylor

Rev. E. Hawkins)
)

Journal etc. of the Rev. W. H. Taylor from Lady Day to Midsummer, 1857

April 5th Visited several families this past week, and prepared for our monthly mail. Have had much to do in this way, but nothing of importance to record, — Church & school well attended to-day.

6th The service to-day not so well attended owing to the return of the cold - it has quite the feeling of winter again. — It may affect our week-day services. —

10th Good Friday — What a solemn day is this - and I feel glad to record the way in which it has been kept here. The services of each day have been interesting & as good a congregation assembled as could be expected. — To-day was all I anticipated - and I think, with one or two exceptions, most have kept some part of the day. This is an improvement - & a promise of better things. Bringing the Ch. before our people in her distinctive character does much to awaken attention & to fix distinctive principles in the mind. —

12 - Easter Day — Not at all glorious weather here - the most stormy cold & drifty morning we have had the season. No one moving out & feared that our people would not get to Church at all. About 10 - a few came, & by the proper time, the wind cleared or fell, and we had a pretty good muster. Still it had its influence on our number, if it had none on our feelings - for we made only 22 at the Lord's Table. Had a Baptism & churching this afternoon - but was obliged to send off the Mother & child, fearing the storm might get worse. I trust neither Mother nor babe may be the worse for being out - she is one that would come to Church if possible, & I am sure it must have been an effort to-day.

18th This has been a week of dreadful weather. May we soon have change! It has been one continual storm of wind & snow, with intense frost. — Fodder is said to be getting short, & cattle dying daily with cold. We could not anticipate this severity: —

19th Sunday We can hardly trust God - our faith and hope in His mercy & goodness soon fail. He has sent us a blessed change to-day - a calm has succeeded the storm - & mild, soft, & sunny beams, the cracking killing frost. It has been a joyful Sunday - such good attendance at Church & school, & all seem thankful.

April 22 Had a full morning at visiting - but owing to the "melting", as we call it, had some little trouble to find the best path to the houses. How pleasant after a long trying winter to be again able to move about - to see the bare ground here & there - to see the joyousness of nature on the return of Spring, and to be able to enjoy it all. All speak of the long fit of cold - & generally, I find fears entertained about seed-time - as most have used up the reserved Hay. But after all it will doubtless be better than our fears - & God will still, according to promise, give us "seed-time". Had one more enjoyable & I trust profitable Sunday. —

29 Had an application for the loan of £2 to buy a cow. As the poor man has a family & I think is now striving & careful, I denied myself to benefit him. He promises to return it in Hay on Labor. — We must feel for our people in their temporals - & they look as much for direction & help in that way as in spirituals. —

1st May Very unlike May at home - cold has again returned, with sharp cutting winds & frost. —

7 Started on horse-back to visit some friends - found the track very wet - plush-splash every step. — Meeting the wind for some distances, the hands became as cold as in winter - & had the same painful aching. —

8 Wet all day - could not get out - but gave some medicine to a poor sick babe. —

9 A fearful snow-drift in the night - had much labor to fulfill my promise to see the sick child. Had to get in & out with snow above the knees - this is unusual at this season. Found the babe better - & on returning visited a family in my way. —

10 - Sunday The smallest congregation I have ever had - men only & a few boys - the walking is most toilsome & no female, it appears, could attempt it. — I cannot urge them on such occasions - they have only the Indian Moccasin, & to sit in church with such wet feet & legs as they must necessarily get, is dangerous. They venture too much in this way - & often bring on a serious illness or lay the seeds of consumption to which they are sadly liable - & the wretched moccasin too often induces it. The mail is in & we have our letters, etc.

17 Sunday What a difference a week has made! We have had glorious weather - so bright & beautiful & hot. And our services have been, I trust, in harmony with the weather & things around us. Had two Baptisms and two Churchings this afternoon & endeavoured to improve the subject in my sermon. I find such times very nice to bring before their notice the grand truths of the Gospel - the Scriptural teaching of our Ch. & our own duties & responsibilities as members of that Ch.

21 Ascension Day — Service nicely attended - many left the Plough & Harrow & resting their oxen came to join in the Service. This was encouraging - & shows that much may be done in this way. Surely this must sweeten labor. — But the habit is not yet fixed in the inhabitants of this land - the Church has not been presented to them in her full character - & these things seem new & strange to many.

23 Have worked hard this week in the garden - could get no one to dig & labor, & so had to turn to with the boy, & do what we could. It is no new thing to us here - & tho' not to be chosen or preferred - necessity has no choice. —

31st Rode early (about 5 o'clock) to St. Paul's having engaged to assist Mr. Chapman to-day. Much enjoyed the freshness & beauty of the morning. — Dwelt as I rode along on what we read of the early Whitsundays - especially over the first as recorded in the Acts. Preached from the words "I will put my Spirit within you" & afterwards assisted in the Holy Comm. Read Prayers in the afternoon, and spent a joyful evening with Mr. C. & his family. Thus has another month ended in the holiest & best of service.

June 6th Much engaged this week in gardening operations - snatched a little time, as it were, for other duties - & have prepared somewhat for the Mail. The heat to-day has been oppressive - kept me much within. — The harbingers of hot weather, the mosquitoes, have arrived in great-numbers.

7th Trinity Sunday. This has been a solemn day with me. & I trust, a profitable day to many. Had the Holy Communion, when a goodly number approached the Table of the Lord. I could not but touch in my sermon this morning on a subject which had been occupying my thots i. e. my Ordination as

Deacon by the Bishop of Newfoundland as this day - Trinity Sunday the 7th of June 1846 - I have now been eleven years in the Ministry, & I trust my one aim and object has been to set forth Jes. Christ & Him crucified, - to direct men to Him - & to persuade them to be reconciled to God. I preached from the words "Through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" - as suitable to the day: —

June 12th Had delightful & most enjoyable weather this week. Everyone so busy & the Hunters from the Plains passing about trading, make quite a lively scene. The Settlement Brigade for the U. States left to-day - a Party gone to meet Mr. Corbelt & his family, who is returning to the Diocese. —

17th Hear that Sir G. Simpson has arrived from Montreal by canoe - and arranged with Arch. Hunter & Mr. Chapman to pay our respects to him on the 19th. Had a pleasant interview with Sir. Geo. at the Fort in company with my brethren Messrs. Hunter & Chapman. Talked on general things - but chiefly on matters touching on the temporal welfare of the country. — Sir. Geo. soon returned the compliment by calling, this afternoon with the Judge Major Seaton & Mr. Osborne - the two last having come in with him by canoe.

21st Had very good attendance at Church - and as many expressed fears for the crops on account of dryness - prayed for Rain. —

22 Our prayers of yesterday seem graciously answered to-day. — We have had 2 hours nice gentle rain — It is well to notice such little circumstances and our attention is called to them more especially here - we seem to live so immediately under the Providence of God. — May we, with Bp. Wilson, - "On the receipt of every fresh mercy, turn our eyes to Him from whom alone cometh our Salvation" —

27 Have had a laborious week - visiting most days - exhorting & teaching as the case may be. — Had occasion to go down the Settlement - called & took Mr. Chapman with me to the Rapids. Stayed with Archd. Hunter the night - during which it rained heavily. Had a laborious & tedious journey up to St. Paul's where I stayed again, it continuing to rain. —

28 Took the duty at St. John's on my way up - preached on the "office and char. of John the Baptist" - and then rode to St. James's through rain and much mire. Changed my clothes - had a short & hasty dinner & then went to afternoon service. —

30th June Feel no inconvenience from my late wetting, Thank God for this mercy! The weather so hot & bright after the late plentiful rain. — How true is it - "His clouds drop fatness - they drop upon the wilderness" etc. etc.

Report, etc., of the Rev. W. H. Taylor of St. James & Rupertsland for the Qr. ending Sept. 29th, 1857.

July 1st Our school has reopened to-day - visited and staid some time there. — All look happy and very busy but there ought to be many more present than there is. — Called on a few persons on my way home, and had some conversation with them on religious and scholastic topics. — I find my remarks generally admitted - but a slowness to profit by them in the shape of immediate practice.

5th Very hot - yet nicely moderated by frequent showers - occupied much at the Church having many things to finish or improve. —

12th Visited a little sick child, and endeavoured to minister comfort to the mother under the prospect of death.

16th A violent thunderstorm relieving the overcharged atmosphere, and allowing us to breathe a little more freshly and freely. — God be praised for His preservation of us!

17th Hear that an Indian tent was struck with the lightening last evening - and that one man and three women were killed. Their Indian friends buried them immediately near the Fort. Find two trees near the house are scorched up. The electric fluid must have passed near and close about us.

19th Visited the poor woman whose babe was happily released from a world of sin and sorrow just at the close of evening service. She thanked me for my visit, and seemed to derive comfort from the thought that it had been specially prayed for in the Ch. this day.

21st Buried the poor little infant to-day.

25th Had a busy week - a marriage and a burial - visited and examined the school, and done much besides in the shape of visiting etc. etc. —

29th Went today to see a young child who had been asking for me. She had been sick and ailing for some time - but was too late to see her again alive. She had breathed her last - and her happy and guileless spirit had separated to be with Xt. Read & prayed with the family.

31st July Buried the little one who in her departing moments had called for me. Poor child - she has been gathered into the Saviour's fold which is far better. 3 infants buried within a twelve month - this more than the usual rate of mortality among us. —

August 2nd Had only one service to-day. Kept Sunday School this afternoon and tried to make it profitable to the young. —

5th A stormy & tempestuous day - but the thunder etc. not nearly so terrific as usual.

8 Reports are rife of great accidents to the boats on their way from York H. B. No doubt it is greatly magnified.

11th Heard for certain that the grasshoppers are at the Portage la Prairie & that great devastation is being done by them among the crops. May God graciously avert from us this sad & threatening judgment. 19th Have observed some very large flying grasshoppers about the place - some as long and large as one's little finger. Can they be the precursors of the general army? —

23rd Have had a most beautiful day - a delightful Sunday. May a blessing rest upon its holy services. — This day 24th our fears fully realized - the grasshoppers swarm about us — They arrived in the night - and are said

to be still more numerous to the west. They are a sadly disgusting sight, and tho the crops may not be seriously injured by them now - the prospective is saddening enough. Still God is able to make all things abound towards His people - and faith and patience must have their perfect work in us.

27 Took a journey to Headingly. — called on a family which was formerly in my parish - found two very sick, the mother and infant. Had reading and prayers with them, and hope I was able to prepare, in some measure, the poor mother for the trial that at no long distance awaits her - the death of her babe. Indeed her own life seems hanging on a thread - and I know not wh. may be called off first. She is a communicant and I trust is preparing, God helping her, for her change. Overtaken by a thunder storm - sheltered in the house of an old servant, seems to be doing pretty well in worldly matters. Called on a few others on our way back - had an accident, broke the wheel of the Buggy - and had to borrow a cart to bring us home. Got home late wet and tired. — But these are trifles compared with the grass-hoppers in the neighborhood we this day visited. Being a strong west wind they rose up from the crop and literally pelted us as we went on, getting among our clothes etc. We found them in the houses, holding onto the outside walls and ravaging all before them. Their deposit of larva is wonderful and unless the winter kill much of it, the prospect for next year is dreary enough. The poor settlers are of course distressed, but appear to take it patiently.

Sept. 1 Many patches of wheat still unripe. This will not be fit for bread. — Still much good corn had been gathered - for this let us be thankful.

6. Had a delightfully quiet Sabbath. May it have been as profitable to many as quiet. —

9. Sent off as usual our monthly dispatches. Hear that several gentlemen have arrived from Canada, to make observations of the country and report to their government. ---

10. Hearing that the poor babe in the family at Headingly was dead, I left on horseback to see them. Found the poor mother low and sorrowful. Had much quiet talk with them in their grief, and tried to direct them to the source of all comfort and true peace. I hope there is something good in them toward the Lord their God - and that the affliction they are now passing thro', will yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness to His glory and praise! A chastened spirit and a softened heart is more likely to hear and receive the word with meekness and faith. May this wave upon wave of affliction, leave the poor mother especially more near to God! Called at one place where there were only little children - they, were a little afraid, but I soon quietened them and had some conversation with them. Visited others on my way home - reaching it just before dark. From the distance at wh. people live in this place - a whole day is consumed in visiting even a few, and without a horse, nothing as things now are, could be accomplished.

Sept. 14th Called today to see H. - a poor suffering neighbour. He has been bed ridden for several years and tho' I am not his clergyman, I sometimes give him a friendly call. He is always glad to see me, poor fellow. His is like a living death and the release from his present state of pain and disease, wd. be a mercy. He thinks few could bear what he has borne. — He speaks and I think feelingly, of the guilt of his past life - and thinks his suffering a punishment for it. — I tried to lead him to the one great sacrifice for our sins viz. Jes. Christ - and he said "I know it" - I hope he

does - and that he may trust only to that for pardon and peace. On my way I called to see a sick child whose mother brought it to me yesterday just as we were going to church. It was an urgent case - and perhaps the saving of the child's life. I told her so, and endeavoured to impress her with a sense of God's mercy in this instance. She did not appear much struck with it - but thought more of the means. — 20th Had a beautiful Sunday. The services and labours of the day much as usual. —

21st The mail arrived via U. S. bringing the news of the mutinous and murderous outbreak in the East Indies. Had a nice quiet talk with a poor sick man in his wheat-field - tried to persuade him to give himself up to his Saviour more fully & heartily.

27th Sunday - Beautiful still as to weather - and I trust good in many ways. Had a most solemn and impressive Communion. I preached from II Cor. 9 - 15. — We made it also a Thanksgiving Day for a plenteous harvest. Oh that it might have been as an harvest to the soul as well as the body. Had one fresh Communicant - the poor man I so anxiously longed should be there. May the Lord whom he has thus openly avouched to be his God, lead him and guide him - filling him with joy and peace in believing. In a conversation I afterwards had with him, he said "It was a good time with him for certain" - May it ever be so! —

St. James's November 17th 1857

Dear Reverend friend,

i take my pen in hand in writing you these few lines by the bearer my daughter, Margret. i wish you to favour me with one sermon book in lone as before and three or four Saturday magazines for me to read at my leisure oures since i am so partial to reading in diverting myself therewith. i expect i shall start from here now in a day or two hence since i now am nearly ready. i have a long fatiguing work in thus removing from here but i trust in it will be to the benefit for me and my small family now left me by almighty God, who is, i trust my only gide in traveling through this vale of tears. Wishing you every comfort in life, believe me

I remain dear friend, yours most truly,

Jeremiah Cook

P.A. i write this morning at the
our of 6 o'clock with dim candlelight
so I beg excuse my writing.

St. James's Assiniboia
10th Aug. 1857

Rev. and dear Sir,

I might have sent the enclosed Report, by mail which has gone out this day - but as the Boats are now on the point of starting for Hudson's Bay, I thought I might as well send it by ship. —

I trust you have duly received the former dispatches. —

I addressed them to the Bp. because I like his Lordship to see what is said - but as he is now about leaving home to return to his diocese, I send this direct. He will not think anything about it I feel sure for I write to him pretty fully, and acquaint him almost all that transpires. We shall be very glad to see him among us again and you will be pleased to hear that arrangements have been made to convey him from St. Paul's free, or nearly so. We hope to welcome him back to his diocese about the middle of Oct.

We have had a beautiful summer hitherto - and there is promise of an abundant harvest in the settlement. I suppose we have on the whole, as fine weather as any part of this Continent - a cloudy day is the exception - bright blue sky and a clear atmosphere is the rule. This sheds cheerfulness and contentment around. You must not fancy us dull and cheerless - for tho' we have dull and wet weather at times - and for days together cannot walk the tracks, yet there is an air of brightness and elasticity pervading the place. We are now busy hay-making. — I hope to get some cut by the Machine - this is a great improvement on the old way of mowing and will, I suppose, eventually supersede the scythe. There are several now in the settlement. I have been distressed to hear, for certain, that we are threatened with a scourge of grass -

hoppers. You will say - always some evil threatening, or something perplexing and distressing. A man from the Portage, a small settlement 70 miles west, reports that the fields and gardens are devastated and that the "devouring army" is at Long Lake - within 30 miles of us. A west wind will bring them right into the settlement. It is reported that miles and miles of the plains are quite blackened with devastations and that at Pembina they were, in places, 3 inches thick. May God mercifully deliver us from this impending danger! for not only just now would they devour all the harvest, but, depositing their larva, would inflict a dreadful scourge next year also. We can do nothing, it is said, to ward off the evil. they are as clouds of dust and come it is said, as a rush of wind. We are now expecting the Buffalo hunters every day. A good supply of Pemmican & Dried meat wd. render any loss of grain less felt. Hoping to hear something of you and the Society's doings by the Ship, & with every prayer and wish believe me,

Rev. and Dear Sir

Obediently yours

W. Taylor

Rev. E. Hawkins

Journal & Notices of the Rev. W. Taylor for the Quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1857

October 4th - Sunday - Having made arrangements to preach for the

Rev. Mr. Chapman and to assist him in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, both myself and my wife left on Saturday for St. Paul's. — We have had a most enjoyable day with our friends here. I preached A. M. from Eph. V. 20 - assisted afterwards at the Sacrament - had 73 Communicants. Mr. Chapman preached P. M. from Ps. LXV, 1 verse. A collection was made after both services for the Repairs of the church. As well as the administration of the Sac'r't. it was made a Day of special thanksgiving by that Congregation for a good harvest:- "He filleth our hearts with food and gladness". —

7 At home again after a very pleasant little visit. — We went with a few friends to the Big Stony Mountain about 13 or 14 miles out. It is quite a relief to see a hill or any undulating land & this ridge, the northern end of that on which St. James' is built is not without some attractions. — We called on a few friends on our (way) up the Settlement.

9 Had a line or two in pencil from the Bishop to say that he is nearing the settlement. His Lordship says they have had no rain for 14 days - and have had a beautiful track over the Plains. Some of our own people were in the Party - & they have brot. us this good intelligence. — To-morrow I hope to meet them.

10 Left early - and proceeded to the Ferry. — Found the Bp. and his Party had not crossed - so I took the horse over, and we went on a mile or so hoping to meet them. This we soon did - and were glad, right glad, to welcome him back to His diocese. We accompanied them to their own house

and then returned home. God be praised for His goodness to them all their journey through! I could have wished that a little more attention had been paid him by the authorities in the land - on their part it was a shabby reception indeed. — We do not count the favor of men - but on such an occasion, it would have been timely. In this, as well as in most other things, we are unlike any other part or portion of the world.

17 Extremely busy all the week preparing for winter. The Rev. Mr. Corbelt and Family arrived, and I drove them up to their old Station. May a greater blessing rest upon and follow his labours in that neighborhood! Yea, may we all seek for this more and more - and be satisfied with nothing short of it! —

Oct. 25th Had most delightful weather for the season. — A good attendance both at Ch. and Sch. Visited a family in the evening.

28 Pleased to have a visit from Arch. Hunter and Mr. Chapman. We had some little talks together and then agreed to pay our respects to the Corbelts who had lately arrived. We counted on passing the night with them. — Had a toilsome journey from the recent-snow. We had much conversation on his visit to England, and were glad to hear of the Ch. in our native land and of her work there and in other places, to the glory of Her God and the good of man. — We decided on a monthly clerical meeting as far as circumstances wd. admit of it - with a view to mutual edification and profit. — We slept on the floor on the buffalo robes - and with the early morning returned to St. James'. This was certainly a break in our still, monotonous life. —

Nov. 1st All Saints - A very dreary wet day. — Had a poor attendance at Ch. No female could come thro' the sleet and snow. — Winter seems fairly to have commenced. —

4 Visited three or four families and held much conversation with them. Colds very prevalent. — Much call for medicine.

13 Called on several families - said good bye to one removing further west. Gave them some tracts and good advice with as much encouragement as I could hold out, to do well. — Spoke to a mother about her family, and exhorted her to use her influence over them in a gentle way for good. —

15 Heard sad things of British India. Prayers used in the Church for the poor sufferers. — How thankful should we be for the peace and security which we have! We hold it rather insecurely, as indeed any other earthly goods - but God grant us thankful hearts, for so much and such continued peace and quietness. —

18 The hunters are now returning from the Plains with not so good a hunt as usual. — No tallow to be gotten so that we fear we shall be in the dark a good part of the winter. —

22 Sunday Our ordinary service this morning - very poor attendance at church. Took the service at the Fort this P.M. Requested Mr. T. to take the Sunday School for me. Found it very cold crossing the Plains to the Fort. —

24 Held our first clerical meeting to-day - the greatest unanimity and concord prevailed - and we do hope that such meetings may be the means of stirring one another up to increased activity and to greater diligence and watchfulness both over ourselves and over our flocks. In this way we shall secure the sympathy and counsel of each other in any of our trials difficulties and perplexities. — In so isolated a land, there is more need for all this - God ever be with us!

Nov. 29 - Advent Sunday - The Bishop has been with us this day. Could not press an earlier visit, as he had so much to do and so many places to visit after a long absence from the diocese. His Lordship preached from 1 Thes.

II. 17. We had a quiet, and I trust, a blessed & profitable communion. To hear the "truth as it is in Jesus" - to be cheered and refreshed by the promises of the Gospel has been our privilege this day - to draw near to the Table of the Lord and to hold high and blessed communion with Him and with one another has been our delightful employment. May God add His effectual blessing. The Bishop took the P.M. service at the Fort on his way back to St. John's. —

Dec. 5 Had a full week of pastoral visiting - the weather remarkably mild for the season - to this may be owing, in some measure, the present epidemic with which we seem to be generally afflicted. a severe form of influenza. Have dispensed much medicine, and made many calls not on our own people exactly, but on many others. —

13 The Services and school but thinly attended to-day - most are laid by with influenza. Visited two families this evening having a short service with each. May the comforts and consolations of the Gospel be thus with them.

14 Sick with the prevailing Epidemic. Find it is going thro' my family. — I must be my own Doctor and try to throw it off as I best can. —

15 Am much better - hope my attack will be both light and short. Had my evening lecture according to notice - trust I may not be the worse for it. I met the families in that part of the neighborhood so that we had a pleasant, and tolerably good, meeting. — Explained a chapter after some introductory Prayers - the Confession - Lord's Prayer etc. etc. Concluded with the

Evening Hy. etc. etc. Returned home by the light of the Aurora - which was very brilliant and magnificent.

17 A nice young couple married to-day - the young woman was in the Sunday S. when we first came to the parish and has behaved very well at service for a long time. She is now respectably married - but goes out of the parish - not that she will be neglected - they will be well attended to where they reside.

23 Walked to the extreme end of the district for my evening lecture. Had a most interesting little meeting - many questions asked on the chapter explained - so that it assumed very much the catechetical form of instruction. Reached home about 9 o'clock. —

20 Dec. We have had our usual good attendance both at ch. and sch. day. Thro' the goodness of God most are now better, but still much coughing in church which is a rare thing in this country.

25 Xmas Beautiful morning. — Went early to see a sick man. I had visited him every day during the week. He was better and said "he had been trying to explain the Day to his family but he was a poor hand at it. He could tell them, however, that God sent his own son to be our Saviour and that we kept the day on that account." He desired the prayers of the Church for himself particularly. We had a goodly number at church and prayed for poor H. The Ch. had quite a joyous and home-like appearance. For the first time in the land a church was decorated with ever-greens - a custom almost universal and very seemly and appropriate it is.

27 Another delightful day - the very perfection of weather - so unlike anything we have hitherto seen in Rupert's Land. The cold not so great as in November. Took the service this P.M. at the Court House for the Military.

30 Walked about a mile and 1/4 west to the evening lecture.

Explained the 3 Gp. of S. John, the lesson for the day. Had a very sedate and attentive company - and a pleasant walk back in the soft and clear light of a full moon. May God bless this my last service amongst them for this year! I do believe my labors are valued and appreciated. —

31st Appointed for our clerical meeting at St. Andrews. Left pretty early to attend it. Dined with our friends, the Chapmans, on the way. Reached the rapids about 4 P. M. Had a profitable and edifying meeting - solemnized by the subject considered, and the recollection of the rapid flight of time. All the brethren remained with Archdn. Hunter for the service he had given notice of at 1/2 past Ten. At 9 the Bells struck up - giving out a pleasant peal in the still soft air of the night. At 10 the people were filling the Ch. and at the hour appointed the service began. Each clergyman took a part. The Bp. preached from Rev. XXII 21. Holy Communion was administered to a large number. This beautiful service was the design of Archd'n. Hunter who had taken much pains to light and adorn the Ch. for this very interesting occasion. Thus we closed one year and began another in the love and service of Him who is the "Amen". —

Journal etc. of the Rev. W. H. Taylor from Xmas to Lady Day 1858

Jany. 1st Preached by appt. for Mr. Chapman at St. Paul's from
Ex: 14. 15 - & Phil: 3-13. Mr. C. read prayers - the congregation was very
good for New Year's Day. The latter part of the day, proving Stormy I had to
pass the night with our friends.

3rd, - Sunday — Had a delightful day for the first Sunday in the year - very good
attendance at Church & school. Preached from the same words I had at
St. Paul's on New Year's Day. —

6, Epiphany To-day we have had glorious weather and a good attendance
on the A. M. service. Mr. Chapman preached from Ps. 4. 5. In the evening
we had our Ch. officers - lingered and spent a pleasant and profitable evening
together. These little social meetings are very beneficial and do good in more
ways than one. —

10th Remarkably mild and warm for the season. Have much enjoyed
both the Ch. services and the school to-day. Trust others have had as much
enjoyment and profit as myself. —

13th The weather more severe and so more seasonable. Travelled
a good distance to baptize an infant, not very well, and the parents felt anxious.
A neighbour brought in another wishing it baptized at the same time - and as the
mother could not go to Church, I thot it right to baptize it. In so cold a country
as this one cannot urge the bringing of very young infants to the church. Walked
after tea to our Evening Cottage Lecture, Had rather a puzzling walk - the track
on the river not being very well defined. I have not the keen sight and touch of
a native - they seldom go far wrong on a track. Explained the 2nd less. for this

evening - viz. Rom. 11th. Had company on my return so that I really had a "pathfinder" and got back very well.

14 A Marriage to-day. The young couple virtually man and wife before - but as they were now living in a Christian community, they wished to live in a Xtian way. The young woman was of the Sioux tribe and I had to get an interpreter. Not one of our neighbors could speak her language so that I had to trust to the bridegroom. I broke up the question "Wilt thou have this man" etc. into simple sentences - and the young person, who is said to be very beautiful, answered each in a clear, ringing voice "I ah-ook" or something like it and wh. I was told meant "yes - certainly" — I hope they may be happy together and live in a Christian manner. I find she had been baptized in the Missouri country by the name of Elizabeth. —

17 - Sunday Had very beautiful weather - or as some one said - the perfection of weather. It is so unusual that one cannot but notice it. Our attendance good both at Ch. and at S. School.

18 Visited two families to-day and had conversation with them on religious subjects.

19 Went in the sleigh to see our friends at Headingley Upper Assiniboia. Spent a few hours in friendly conversation etc. and returned home again about dark. There is not very much snow on the prairies over which we drove. —

20 Visited three families this morning. Had my lecture this evening, walking with my Indian boy as companion. A good number were gathered together in the cottage and I trust were the better for what they heard.

Gave Will'm Hopkins his first lesson in Astronomy as we returned. The stars were particularly brilliant, and ere we got home, the Aurora was very striking and fantastic - beautiful but changeful. —

21 Within most of the day - took a walk this evening calling on a family or two in our path - speaking a word to the sick and the aged: —

24 Had a pleasing instance to-day that one's labour is not quite in vain, especially among the young. May such multiply greatly! and may we ever remember the charge "Feed my lambs". — This evening Mr. Corbelt arrived on his way to attend the clerical meeting at Mr. Chapman's tomorrow. We have thus spent a quiet evening in pleasant and profitable conversation. One looks forward to a little break like this with a great deal of pleasure - and fortunately we are seldom disappointed in the result.

Jany. 26 Visited a sick person some miles off at the request of some of his friends. Had a nice quiet interview with him - some interesting and earnest conversation on eternal things. Read and explained part of the 12th chap. to the Heb. and the 23rd Ps. I then prayed with him and his family and hope this visit may be among the means by which it may please God to lead him more to Himself as the fountain of all grace and mercy. — Walked to my lecture this evening - returned thro a snow storm which at times nearly blinded us. I was accompanied by one of our young men who sought the path and saw me safe at my own house. —

27 Stormy and cold all the day - no going abroad - so I contented myself within doors, where I found quite enough to occupy me.

31 Sunday, By the Bishop's permission I took Mr. Chapman's duty to-day. He is taking a change with Mr. Cowley at the Indian Village. Felt an

inflammatory sore throat coming on, and ere the P. M. service was over, it was quite painful. As soon as the duties of the day were over I applied a mustard blister which effectually carried off the inflammation. I feel thankful that I have been much more free from this affection in this country than I was in Newfoundland. But this is a land of extremes, and one has need of robust health and an iron constitution. — Mr. Chapman has a nice snug parish - intelligent and respectable people - a good school and an efficient Master: —

Feb. 3 4 & 5 — Employed chiefly in visiting. —

8 and 9 Now we have the cold in good earnest - the biting North West blast drives all before it and in a great measure confines man and beast to the house. Still the cold has not yet approached to what it was last winter.

10 A little warmer - the wind fallen. Drove to the Fort to ascertain if the mail had arrived. — Had our Lecture this Evening. Found a house full to overflowing. — They were very attentive and I hope repayed in the best of ways for their diligence. It is encouragement to go on when one's efforts are, or seem to be, valued & appreciated. I find it so this evening - the audience I have had and the serious attention given to the subject brought before them, seem to repay the study and the long cold walk.

Feb. 12 Visited a poor family to-day. They appear poor and yet they oughtn't to be so - but they are unfortunately unthrifty, and improvident. There is a large family - the woman is alone - just confined. — The husband is off, as they are here — I wished to arrange for the Baptism of the little one. Speaking to her of her family, and the obligations she is under to instruct and teach them - pray for them and with them and set them a good example, — she

said she was happy to read to them and to pray with them and they liked her to do so. — She would teach them the Catechism, but she was unwilling to use her Prayer-book for that purpose. Poor thing - she means well, and is very good as far as it goes, and her want of energy may be constitutional.

I promised to help her to a Catechism book and to reward the child who should first repeat it. —

14 - Sunday Uncommonly rough and severe. — A poor congregation this A. M. Went through the storm to the Fort and got my face frozen on the journey. By some misunderstanding, and fault of mine, the Bp. was there as well - so that both of us had the benefit of the cold - tho' I don't know that the Bishop got frost-bitten.

17 - Ash Wednesday The cold continues rather extreme or else it is from having had such moderate weather hitherto that we feel this so excessively. Had A. M. Service and a good congregation notwithstanding.

21 Sunday Had our morning service as usual. — A Baptism and Churching this afternoon. Felt sorry for the poor woman who brought her babe - she could get no one to stand for it - so Mrs. Taylor and myself were sponsors. I shall take an early opportunity of speaking on this point: as I find much misapprehension prevails with regard to it - and the use and custom of the church is not esteemed. Much, no doubt, may be attributed to the prevalence of Presbyterian notions. I think it both a neighborly charitable and Christian act - and hope no one will be found to refuse the duty on account of the responsibility it entails. The same prejudice existed at one time against the "churching of women". that, I think, has been overcome. —

Feby. 24 Have been from home two days or parts of days. Met with most of my clerical brethren and have much enjoyed the trip. Hope it has not been without good both to myself and others.

26 To-night I have had a very interesting and gratifying cottage meeting. Took for my subject the 3rd I Peter, the latter part, at the request of one of the neighbors. — I did not make it controversial exactly but gave the sense of the passage as our ch. Commentators have understood it. — I also read to the people select parts of the Bish. of Tasmania's visit to Bass's Straits. Some of them present knew poor old Sir Jno. Franklin and were pleased at the Bis.'s allusions to him. — To read in this way sometimes gives these poor isolated individuals a good notion of other parts of the world and shows what is done - felt - enjoyed or endured in those distant countries.

27 Called without invitation on a poor dying neighbor. Found him too weak to speak and hardly able to recognize me. I found the Priest had been to perform the last rites according to their fashion and faith and I could only breathe a silent prayer for the poor man. His departure must be a mercy - both to himself, I trust, and to his family. —

Mar. 1 Our daily school has reopened to-day under the teaching of a young man from the coll'te school. I hope it may be carried on with greater advantage and profit than formerly. I think there is every reason to expect it. We depend on the Bishop for a good part of the salary - and feel much indebted to those good friends who supply the funds which his Lordship is so kind as to put at our disposal. The school ought to be self-supporting - but the people do not as yet put value enough on education - and the rising generation will suffer the consequences.

2 The Bishop called this A. M. on his way out to Fairford Manitobah. — It is a bitterly cold day and will be quite enough for him by the time he reaches White-Horse-Plain. May his visit to that station be productive of good to the little flock gathered in there and to those who labour among them in the Lord. — Took a long cold drive and not being very well, felt it the more, to see a sick person. Was met at the door by the father-in-law who kept me in a long talk about the poor afflicted - but finding that she was then asleep - did not see the sufferer. She had few lucid moments I found, - her brain being affected. I was assured that if she required any attention they would let me know. —

7 Our Sunday services and school have been much as on other Sundays. The weather very fine and enjoyable. Mr. Chapman, who performed divine service at the Barracks, came to us for the night. We have not often the pleasure to have a clerical friend on a Sunday night.

8 Paid our promised visit to Mr. Corbelt - visited his day-school. Spoke a few words to the children two of which I saw were from my own school - the family having recently removed to that locality. — We reached home just at-dark - the travelling on the prairies not being very good.

13 The week has gone much as other weeks - a variety of employments have occupied me - but none of that importance to demand a record. —

14 Sunday - A nice day - if mild and soft weather make one. It is too early by far to get such soft airs and melting days. Had a wet ride to the Barracks where I performed service this P. M. Rain fell as I rode over the Plains and the sky became cloudy and threatening. The evening brought Lightening Thunder and Rain to our great astonishment. One question was often on our lips - how will the Bishop get back? for he had gone out in a Dog Train or Sledge. —

20

The thaw has gone on all the week - putting a stop to travelling and out-of-door operations. The River is now untravellable - and the state of the land such as to admit of no passage over it - except for pedestrians, and they must go as much by water as land. — Melting by day and overflowing the land - then freezing during the night. There is a crust of ice through which very few animals can go. But being the ordinary state of things in the spring, we think little of it, except as it confines us to close quarters within. — Where the Bishop has been or how he is making his way back from Lake Manitobah we cannot imagine. The men sent with horses to meet him have returned. He is said to have taken another track from the Lake.

21 Mar. Sunday — As I was just preparing for Church, 1/4 from Ten, I saw a cart approaching. It was the Bishop on his return from Fairford. The sudden thaw had disturbed all his arrangements. He could not start back to appointment - & then he said he had to travel in every conceivable way or mode. In Dog Sleigh - on foot - on horse back - in a cart etc. etc. He told us he came as far as Sturgeon Creek on Saturday Evening - they found the Dam had given out and there was no crossing. — He spent the night at one of the houses in that neighbourhood - & at day light, started in the cart to head the Creek or make a fording place. The little borrowed horse was not shod, and would not go on, or through, the ice - & they had been dodging about since 5 o'clock. I think he never went through such a week before, sleeping out 2 or 3 nights in such weather! He had a poor breakfast with us (for he appeared too cold to eat) & the young man being warmed and refreshed, off he went again hoping to reach St. John's by noon. Such as our Bp. has gone through must indeed be Missionary difficulties, etc. etc. The fact that the

Bp. should have been within 3 miles of the residence of one of his clergy, late on Saturday night, in such weather & after such a week, and not able to reach it, shows the state of the country & the trials to which we are occasionally subjected. I could not ask him to stay with us for the day, or take any part in our services, his fatigue, tho' he didn't complain, must have been extreme - & he was anxious to reach his home. —

23 Paid a visit to a woman lately confined. Went in a very primitive way & we could not walk - we could not ride except in the cart - so in the cart we went. It took us about an hour & a half to perform a journey of not quite a mile each way. Such is the extreme difficulty with which we can get about just at this time.

25 Visited the School - stayed there some time - few children owing to the wet state of the roads. Called on several persons on my return home. I could not get about at all without a horse - and indispensable as such a creature is, I sometimes find it quite enough - as one is not always in the condition or temper to perform the duties of a groom.

27 This morning disclosed a heavy fall of snow during the night. We found it several inches thick, but so soft & melting that the impressions of the foot were immediately filled with water. Attempted to go a short journey, but had to return.

28 - Sunday A fine morning but exceedingly wet under foot. Our congregation & School were poor & thin on that account. It was quite out of the question for women to come through such slush and puddle. I have given notice of daily service this week, but am much afraid we shall fail in keeping the appointment. —

April 2, Good Friday, Had one full service this A.M. which was nicely attended. A storm came on while in church, which I feared would make some, who had tied their horses outside in a bleak place, uncomfortable. However they did not manifest any impatience. It has happened as I feared & not as I hoped on Sunday last. The wet bad weather quite set aside our week-day services - but I am thankful that so many could observe this day by attending God's House.

April 4 A sad windy snowy day. — I had wished & prayed for a pleasant calm day after such a week of weather. But we must submit our wills & fancies. I am sorry because it kept many from Church & from the Holy Communion. The smallest number I have ever had - only 22 - and that at Easter. — But those only could come who were in good health & pretty near to the Church. We have not had a worse storm the winter. I preached to an attentive tho' small congregation from I Cor. XV 20.

Annual Return to be forwarded at the end of the year to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 79, Pall Mall, London, S. W. , either directly, or through the Bishop

of the Diocese

D I O C E S E O F Rupert's Land

Parish or Mission of St. James's

Township or District of Assiniboia

Signature of the Incumbent or Missionary W. H. Taylor

Date 31st Dec. 1857

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is the extent of the Parish or Mission at present under your charge? | 1. About 5 miles of River Frontage |
| 2. Give the numbers, distinguishing the nations or races, of -
(a) The whole population of your Mission | 2. (a) Mixed population - French Canadian
European - native etc. etc. etc.
Five Hundred & upwards _____ |
| (b) Church Members - i. e. those of any age who are Baptized, and do not profess to dissent from the Prayer-Book. | (b) |
| (c) The actual Congregation present at each of your Churches or Stations at any one Service. | (c) Ordinarily one hundred attend
bus occasionally a greater number. |
| (d) Communicants | (d) Thirty-two - 2 removed 4 added |
| (e) Persons confirmed last year | (e) |
| (f) Unbaptized adults and children under Christian instruction. | (f) |

3. Specify, as to each Church or Station within your Parish, how often in the course of last year did you —
- (a) Celebrate Divine Service?
- (b) Administer Holy Communion?
- (c) Catechise publicly during Service?
- (d) Pay Pastoral Visits?
- (e) And what was the number of

3. (a) About 90 Services - Preached 81 Sermons -

4 at St. Paul's 2 at St. John's - 2 at the

Fort & 1 at Headingly. — Had many

stated & occasional Lectures etc.

(b) Four times - Easter, Trinity, Sept. & Advent

(e) Baptisms of

Infants publicly?	Ten	Infants privately?	Four
Adults publicly?		Adults privately?	
Marriages?	Three		
Burials?	Three		

4. What contributions have been raised within the Parish during the year for general Church purposes, or for local charities?

4.

One contribution for a local object.

5. Particularly state the number and total amount of your Offertory collections, and the purposes to which they are applied.

5. At Easter	25 Comts.	Colls.	" 9-0 1/2
At Trinity	36 Comts.	Colls.	" 10-9 1/2
" Sept.	27 Comts.	Colls.	" 7-2 1/2
" Advent	32 Comts.	Colls.	" 14-0

£2" 1-0 1/2

Given to widows & the sick

6. State the amount of your professional income during the past year, and the sources from whence its components parts are severally derived, - as, for instance, the S. P. G., the Diocesan Church Society, Vote of the Legislature, Glebes, Congregational Contributions in money or kind, Donations, Fees, Pew-rents, Vestry Allowances, or any other source.

6.

£200 partly from the

S. P. G. and partly from

the Bishop ... —

Please to leave this margin.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7. Are you satisfied that your Congregation are contributing to the best of their ability? | 7. |
| 8. What Schools, Sunday and Daily, are in the Mission | 8. Sunday School and a
Daily School part of the year. |
| 9. What is the average attendance of children, male and female, in each? | 9. |
| 10. What part have you been enabled to take in the superintendence or tuition? | 10. Conducted the S. School chiefly. _____ |
| 11. What prospect can you see of the Parish being endowed, or becoming self-supporting? | 11.
I do not see any. _____ |
| 12. Has anything prevented the transmission of your Quarterly Reports during the past year? | 12. I believe not - they have
been duly forwarded. _____ |

St. James' Jany. 20, 1858

Rev. & Dear Sir.

I trust to send this my Quarterly Despatch thro' the Bishop by a private hand thus effecting a little saving by the way of postage.

I trust all my former communications have duly reached - for tho' they may be worth little, they will shew that I wish to do all I can in furthering the work both by labor and writing.. I have just, only this week & that by accident, seen yr. Quarterly Paper of this time last year, in wh. you give a view of our Ch. & some extracts from my Papers. I trust there may be a parcel at York from the Soc. but if so, we shall not get it till next July.

During the year past we have had much cause for joy and thankfulness - and the present winter is such as we have not before seen. The lowest degree has been 26° below zero. This is quite pleasant - when compared with last winter when it was 30° as a general thing, & often 40 - 45 & upwards.

We have had more colds this season than any I remember - & this may be occasioned by the unusual mildness of the season. Still as a whole no place could be more healthy. May God continue to us this great blessing. We have felt much for the sufferings & distresses of our brethren in the East & as a Church have prayed for them, & sympathized with them.

I do not think there is any general information concerning the Diocese I could convey to you. The Bp. has visited all the Churches in the Settlement since his return from Europe, & is going out to Fairford in a dog train next month.

As a country we seem to be passing thro' a political trail. We do not yet see how it may end. Our people both old & young have read much during the winter. The note I enclosed is from one of our reading men who has now removed with his family to another District. I put it in on account of its originality & to shew that our lending books are prized.... (See page 37).

I am sorry to report that during last year, we had a Daily School only part of the year & at this present time it is not in operation. We cannot raise a Master's Salary. — But I trust we shall start again soon - & that with an efficient Teacher. A new School-room on a piece of land near the Ch. is now an object I much wish to see accomplished.

With every prayer for yr. prosperity. Believe me

Rev. & dear Sir

truly yours

W. H. Taylor

Rev. E. Hawkins)
)
 etc. etc. etc.)

St. James's Assiniboia

Aug. 4 1859

• Rev. and dear Sir -

All our mails are falling into irregularity - we don't know which to depend upon - indeed it may happen that between the two stools we shall fall to the ground. I intend to send my last Quarterly Report etc. by the Company's Ship from the Bay. The Boats will be leaving the Settlement for York Factory in a few days - and I hasten to get my full Budget for that route. I thought I might say a few words on a subject I am concerned in - and ask you to put things in a right train. For the two last years we have been kindly helped by some contributions from friends at home i.e. they have sent a Box of Sundries each year — We have had the freight to pay on them which has been no inconsiderable item to be deducted from their value - say 30/ for 100 lbs. from York Fort - an enormous price - still a nice little sum has been made to help us to build a new school etc. These good people I find, wish to see some account in print - or acknowledgment of their gifts. Let me say that each year the Box was detained at York all the winter so that the things shipped in June 1858 we have only just, three or four days ago, received. Our letters a twelve-month ago, sent by Canada acknowledging the Box of the previous year, have been lost altogether I fear. I am writing now to some of our kind friends - but I want to ask you if you could not manage to put into some of your quarterly or occasional publications something like the following - or the same substance in any other shape you like./ "The Rev. W. Taylor & Mrs. Taylor of St. James's Red River Rupertsland thankfully acknowledge the receipt of two Boxes (one

sent in /57 & one in /58) through Mrs. Mills, late of Queens Guild London - but now of St. Mary's Hall Brighton - containing a valuable contribution of articles of useful apparel - ornamental things and suitable Books, Tracts etc. etc. from Miss Trivett, Mrs. Frobisher, Mrs. Everard Mrs. Mills, the Misses Grant, the Misses Saugar, Miss Fitzherbert, Miss More, Miss Dibbin, the Misses Donkin, the Misses Brown, Miss Dondo, Miss Barney and others. Most of the said articles have been sold, and after paying the expenses of Freight etc. the proceeds applied towards the erection of a new School-Room. Some articles have been distributed among the more needy in the Mission & the Books, Tracts etc. have been used in the Schools and distributed in the surrounding Localities or Stations. These generous contributions have assisted them materially in the many outlays devolving on them, and on the Bishop, personally, for which they beg leave to tender their warmest thanks - and to remind the good Christian Donors, that their work is not yet done - for though the School etc. is considerably advanced, a great deal is yet to be accomplished. Any further help which they or any of their friends around them may feel willing to extend to this Missionary Parish, would be most acceptable and seasonable, as they have still much to do in finishing the School & the house for the Teacher, and many objects of Charity to think of, and care for. Articles may be sent to the care of Mr. C. Young of Islington London, for St. James's Mission, Assiniboia, Rupertsland. " I must add to this that should you find it proper to print such an acknowledgment, would you kindly send one of the Papers in which it is contained to the following address

Miss Trivett —
11. The Mall
Clifton

I find that most of the Ladies of this stamp turn all their charities and benevolences into the channel of the C.M. Why should not the S. P. G. try to direct some, at least, into a channel quite as deserving as the other. I am the most anxious that something should appear from me as the Missionaries & Stations of the C.M.S. in this Diocese are much thought of, and nicely supplied in this way by friends to the cause, and if we could only come in for a share, by making known our need, & publishing when any help is afforded, for the satisfaction of Christian supporters, so much the better. I am afraid you will think me very frisky and troublesome, but I wanted to state this case clearly - and I don't know whether I have done it or not. I must leave it with you and your fellow-workers to put right.

I shall now speak of the work in the country - our general prospects etc. From my Report you will infer that a course of Confirmations have been held by the Bishop. I should fancy that his Worship never had a more hopeful band of young people and others, as he never had finer weather for the whole course - from one end of the Settlement to the other. I heard him speak of it with great joy and satisfaction. I could not tell you the total number confirmed in the Colony - it was considerable in each Parish; and there is yet one which has to be visited in the Fall, if all be well. In this Parish, I had one brought out of the Missouri Country - from the Tribe of the Black foot, inhabiting those regions & the South of the Assiniboine. I had much pleasure in preparing her for Baptism - Confirmation - & the Lord's Supper. She is a married person - her husband is away South, Trading - he is expected in & will likely settle in the place. A few days ago we had the pleasure to see one of the best of our young

women married to a very respectable young man. He kept School here for a few months 2 years ago - & has since been parochial School-Master at St. John's. I am sorry that we don't keep them here - they are gone to live at the Portage - a settlement, 70 miles West - on the Assiniboine. In this way we feel a degree of discouragement - the young folks go further off. The plan of settling on the bank of the River is very disadvantageous - the locality is soon filled up as far as land goes - each having a space of River frontage - and all the dwellings are scattered and the Settlement endless in content. This we find one great trial, and a continual labor and toil to get about - & they complain of distance from the Church & School. But it would be impossible to follow them - unless we put our Churches and School rooms on wheels, and roll them about for a month or two in a place. This plan is not likely to be adopted.

I ought to say a word or two on the Bishop's visit to the Saskatchewan and English Rivers. He left the Settlement on the 9th or 10th of June. He met with a rough voyage over some parts of Lake Winnipeg - had the Rudder of the Boat carried away & the Boat otherwise injured by one of those violent storms that so often get up in that little inland Sea. He got on well and quickly after that to Cumberland, where he confirmed 4 and at the Communion during his visit, they numbered 88 - a truly goodly number for an Indian Station. He then met the Rev. Mr. Budd from the Nepowewin - a Station higher up the River. The Bishop visited English River - confirmed at the Station in that locality, and found a beautiful Church there as well as at Cumberland - and everything very hopeful & prosperous. He had thought

before he left that he could not be at home again before the 7th of August at the nearest, perhaps it would be the 14th but he made the mouth of the Red River on the night of the 30th of July - Spent Sunday the 31st with Mr. Cowley at the Indian Settlement, and reached St. John's August the 1st to the great surprise of his Sister and of every body else. He is looking remarkably well - and appears to have had a very manageable crew - and, with the exception of the Storm on the Lake going out, very good weather. He has one Station more to visit in this part of his Diocese - and then we shall know the result of the work - I mean, the numbers confirmed. I hope he may give you a Report of his voyages & travels this Season. I cannot conclude this letter without adverting to the prospect there now is of a bountiful harvest. It seems but the other day since the naked grain was committed to the soil - the rich harvest already waves over the far-stretching fields. The wheat is not turning just yet but the Barley is browning rapidly. I trust a good harvest may have the effect of reducing the prices of things - everything has doubled, in some instances trebled, since I came here in 1850. We feel this state of things very much. The excessively hot weather we hope has passed away for this year. It was almost unbearable for a time. All is excess in this land - everything by extremes. I must now close - asking your remembrance of us in prayer, and to believe me Rev. and dear Sir

Yrs. Obedly. & faithfully

Rev. E. Hawkins etc. etc. -)
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W. Taylor

